



**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
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March 31, 2017

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: CITY COUNCIL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

FROM: COUNCILMEMBER TREVOR OZAWA *T. Ozawa*

SUBJECT: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES (NLC) CONGRESSIONAL CITY  
CONFERENCE TRIP REPORT

From March 11 to March 15, I attended the National League of Cities (NLC) Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C. After the conference, I attended various meetings in New York with government officials and community stakeholders, conducting site visits to address the serious issue of our unaccredited zoo and discussing issues of homelessness, affordable housing, mass transportation and traffic.

Due to a winter storm on the east coast, some of my scheduled meetings were either cancelled or moved to accommodate for some closures and changes to various schedules.

This is my trip report with details of my site visits and meetings with accompanying information, and my attendance at the NLC Conference.

**NLC University – Stronger Together: City Manager and City Council Relations  
(3/11/17)**

Attended NLC University meeting about how the executive branch and legislative branches can work better with each other. In order to successfully deliver services to citizens, elected officials and the city manager must work as a team where everyone understands their role, gets to contribute their voice, and problem solve. In this seminar, we learned tangible skills for effective teamwork between the city manager and council. Learned skills and best practices to facilitate positive and productive meetings, create a healthy work environment, and clearly define roles. Heard from two individuals, with more than 30 years of local government experience, who are dedicated to creating excellence in municipal government.

**NLC: New Member / First Time Attendee Breakfast (3/12/17)**

The breakfast provided me the opportunity to meet my peers and to get acquainted with the programs, benefits, and members of the NLC organization.

**NLC: Savings & Solutions Programs Table Top Exhibit Open (3/12/17)**

Perused the exhibit at the NLC's Savings & Solutions Partners that were on hand to discuss how to provide our respective cities with opportunities to build better communities.

**NLC: Community & Economic Development (CED) Federal Advocacy Committee Meeting (3/12/17)**

Attended the Community and Economic Development Committee meeting to listen in on discussion about developing policy positions and leading NLC's advocacy on issues involving housing, community and economic development, land use, recreation and parks, historic preservation, and international competitiveness. In addition, the Committee leads efforts in support of federal grant programs that support these activities, including the Community Development Block Grant program.

**NLC: Transportation & Infrastructure Services (TIS) Federal Advocacy Committee Meeting (3/12/17)**

Attended the Transportation and Infrastructure Services Committee meeting in time to listen to discussion related to developing policy positions on and leading NLC's advocacy on issues involving transportation, including planning, funding, safety and security of public transit, streets and highways, aviation, railroads and ports. Most recently, the Committee's advocacy focused on protecting the local government interests in efforts to reauthorize a new surface transportation program.

**NLC: Diversity Awards Breakfast: Honoring Excellence in Multicultural Initiatives in Cities & Towns (3/13/17)**

Sat in on the annual awards breakfast, which is hosted by NLC's Constituency Groups: National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials; the Asian Pacific American Municipal Officials; the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Local Officials; the Hispanic Elected Local Officials; and the Women in Municipal Government. NLC's Constituency Groups recognized municipal programs that encourage citizen involvement and honor cities that develop creative and effective programs designed to improve and promote cultural diversity through a collaborative process with city officials, community leaders and residents.

### **Opening General Session (3/13/17)**

Attended the Monday morning opening general session will be headlined by Nicolle Wallace—a best-selling author, political analyst for MSNBC, top strategist for the GOP, and the former special assistant to the president and director of communications at the White House under President George W. Bush. Funny and charming, she shared fascinating stories from her time in the White House and on the campaign trail. She was a master storyteller and she examined the latest in politics and the media in a changing landscape and offered her perspective on today's biggest players and issues.

### **NLC: Large Cities Council Meeting (3/13/17)**

Attended this meeting to discuss large city issues and had roundtable collaborative discussions about various issues such as coastal zone management, transportation, housing issues, and infrastructure among other things. The Large Cities Council is open to any local elected official representing a member city with a population of 200,000 or more (or the largest city in a state). Participants shared ideas and creative solutions to challenges affecting large cities. Participation in the Council ensures that the needs of large urban centers are reflected in NLC's advocacy efforts.

### **Meeting with Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa (3/13/17)**

Attended a meeting with Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa, who represents my council district as well to discuss a number of concerns related to our city issues in Hawaii such as transportation, infrastructure, homelessness, and affordable housing. Advocated for our city issues and requested that she let us know of any federal changes that could impact our city. Discussed the proposed budget and how it may impact our community if passed as is.

### **NLC: Public-Private Partnerships 101 (3/14/17)**

Attended a meeting on Public Private Partnerships (P3s) that have been the subject of much praise as an alternative to traditional service delivery and financing methods, but has begged the question of whether it is always the best approach. Participated in this workshop to get a broad understanding of P3s, including what they can and cannot do, and which sectors and projects are best suited for these partnerships. Experts explained how P3s are structured and financed, how P3s have been used to build everything from courthouses and roads to water infrastructure and schools, and how P3s have succeeded and failed in delivering projects ahead of schedule, on budget, and in such a way that that risk is transferred to the parties best equipped to manage them.

### **NLC: Hot Tech Issues for Cities in 2017 (3/14/17)**

This session allowed me to catch up on the technology topics that I need to understand as a local official; got up to speed on how our city should prepare for the growing Internet of Things and rising cyber threats; and found out how to cope with the meteoric rise in cellular infrastructure construction and the increased interest by federal and state governments in regulating local land use.

### **NLC: Closing General Session and Luncheon (3/14/17)**

Attended the closing general session meeting and luncheon. Bestselling author J.D. Vance was the keynote speaker. Finding sudden fame when his bestselling book *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* coincided with an oft-perplexing U.S. election, J.D. Vance offered a unique perspective on a large demographic of America that is misunderstood at best. Raised in a Rust Belt city in Ohio and an Appalachian town in Kentucky, Vance enlisted in the Marine Corps after high school, then went on against the odds to graduate from Ohio State University and Yale Law School.

Guest speaker, U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, shared insight on the need and financing mechanisms for upgrading and improving our nation's water infrastructure and how doing so can improve community resilience, how brownfields redevelopment can support local economies and the national economy, and how EPA can support local efforts on climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience.

### **Meeting with Central Park Zoo and World Conservation Society Officials (3/15/2017)**

I had the pleasure of meeting with Craig Piper and several staff members at the New York City Parks Department building located adjacent to the Central Park Zoo. We had a great discussion about the current state of affairs at the Honolulu Zoo and the difficulties we faced in recent years. We discussed ways that the zoos that Craig Piper worked at prior to and including the Central Park Zoo were able to succeed among changing times and ways in which the Honolulu Zoo could learn valuable lessons such as considering possible revenue streams through various interactive tours and guest experiences that the Honolulu Zoo currently lacks. We also discussed the corporate structure of zoos around the country that he was familiar with and how many have had to adapt to the changing dynamics of zoos and the successful manners in which to work with municipalities, the private sector, the labor interests, and business interests to work together to have a successful zoo. He discussed his affiliation with the AZA and awareness of Honolulu Zoo's inadequacies for a long time now and he knows that the Honolulu Zoo can be successful in the future but some serious changes are needed.

### **Site Visit and Tour of Central Park Zoo (3/16/2017)**

Toured the Central Park Zoo and took time to compare and contrast habitat exhibits animal mix and opportunities that the Honolulu Zoo could also move forward with in order to have a successful zoo. Toured the integration of the zoo into the greater Central Park area and how it is woven into the park very seamlessly. One thing in particular that I viewed that we could integrate at the Honolulu Zoo would be the tropical bird exhibit that features dozens of birds free roaming in an enclosed, yet natural feeling exhibit. This could be a great feature to highlight Hawaii's endangered bird population that is rarely seen. If New York City can do this when the weather outside was very cold, Honolulu should be able to do so as well. Discussed the various programs that the Central Park Zoo incorporates to work well with the surrounding community and to educate children about sustainability, the zoo and animals therein, and lastly conservation efforts around the world. The children's zoo also is separated by a road from the main zoo grounds and is great for the children in the city to see animals that they don't have the opportunity to see in a metropolitan atmosphere such as New York City. Similarities and analogous situation with Honolulu and our distance from many animals that otherwise children and people living on Oahu wouldn't have the opportunity to view if not for the zoo.

### **Meeting with John Calvelli, Executive Vice President of the Public Affairs Division of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Site Visit of the Bronx Zoo (3/17/2017)**

I toured the very successful and very large Bronx Zoo. It is a very well respected zoo that Honolulu could learn a lot from specifically on its ability to raise money for conservation efforts and to provide very unique and well-planned exhibits with great visibility options for patrons. I discussed with John Calvelli about our difficulties and possible solutions to get the Honolulu Zoo back on track to accreditation. John was very well aware of issues in Honolulu and had been to the Honolulu Zoo as recently as a year ago while he was supporting efforts against importing ivory from Asia. We discussed fundraising opportunities, exhibit opportunities for Honolulu, and the importance of integrating more options for the public to engage with the zoo on different levels such as expedited tours, animal encounters, and children's educational opportunities among other things. Specifically, I visited the Congo exhibit, an exhibit that typically costs an additional fee, to see how the zoo incorporates an ask of additional fees from the patrons and how the zoo in turn allows the patrons to select where they want part of the additional fee to be directed. For example, the patron can choose to support certain conservation efforts by voting on an electronic panel as to which animals they would like their money to go toward in conservation efforts in the Congo. Honolulu Zoo could incorporate something like this for our endangered species on Oahu and across the state.

**Meeting with New York City Council Member Ritchie Torres, 15<sup>th</sup> District, Central Bronx (3/17/2017)**

I had the pleasure of meeting with Councilmember Ritchie Torres who represents the 15<sup>th</sup> District, Central Bronx area on the New York City Council. We had a great discussion about the Bronx Zoo, transportation issues, affordable housing issues and HUD cuts in the federal budget and how that may impact cities abilities to continue to find ways to create more housing opportunities for its residents. Additionally we spoke about difficulties with our homeless populations in both his district and my district and how mental health services need to be provided to help curb the problem. Due to scheduling issues we met on this day rather than another day.

City Council  
City and County of Honolulu

# CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

2017 MAR 29 P 2:04

HONOLULU, HAWAII

Traveler: Councilmember Trevor Ozawa - District 4

2017 National League of Cities (NLC) Congressional City Conference.

Also attended meetings in New York city with the following: Wildlife Conservation Society; Central Park Zoo officials; Governor Cuomo's office re: municipal operations in NYC and intergovernmental approaches to various issues; and meetings with Councilmembers Ben Kallos & John Calveili.

Event:

Location: Washington, D.C. and New York City

Dates: From March 11, 2017 To March 15, 2017

Description	Amount	Notes:
1. Registration Fee		
2. Airfare		
3. Hotels (2)	4375.20 <del>\$4,523.47</del>	Receipts attached
4. Meals	336.73 <del>\$291.80</del>	Receipts attached
5. Ground Transportation	588.45 <del>\$592.27</del>	Receipts attached
6. Tips	61.22 <del>\$57.40</del>	Receipts attached
7. Other: Baggage fee	\$60.00	Receipt attached
Other: FedEx shipment	\$178.93	Receipt attached
Other: Omiyage	\$10.50	Receipt attached
Other: UPS Store	\$3.04	Receipt attached
REIMBURSEMENT DUE TO TRAVELER	<del>\$5,717.41</del> 5614.07	

This is to certify that the above data, based upon receipts submitted to Council Administrative Support Services via a CCLTRVL02 form, is accurate. Further, I am claiming reimbursement for expenses associated with a trip in which City business was conducted and personal funds were used to advance payment:

  
Signature of Traveler

3/29/17  
Date